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News

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Carolina Libraries

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Partnerships Pave the Way for Strong Library Services

These days it seems we are too often preoccupied with budget cuts, staff shortages, or super-sonic changes in technology. Alone, individual libraries or library systems could barely survive, much less provide the quality services expected by our patrons. Partnerships are an excellent way to build programs and share responsibility and scarce resources. South Carolina has numerous examples of partnerships between libraries, library organizations, and government entities that exist for the purpose of creating strong library services for all. The State Library is proud to be an active member in many of those partnerships and has chosen to highlight some in this issue.

DISCUS, South Carolina's Virtual Library, is perhaps the most recognizable of the statewide partnerships. Support for this program comes from both libraries and government entities. Staff from SC libraries sit on the DISCUS committees and all are asked to participate in surveys that will shape the future of DISCUS, offering suggestions for future databases, training, etc. The **K-12 Technology Committee** is a state government committee that includes representatives from the Chief Information Officer's Office, the State Department of Education, SCETV, the telephone companies, and the State Library. This committee works together to bring Internet access to public and public academic libraries and is a primary source of funding for DISCUS.

The **Partnership Among SC Academic Libraries (PASCAL)** works to establish a network of public and private academic libraries for the mutual benefit of all. Consortial purchasing is cost effective for the participating members, and collaborative collection development ensures complete coverage in statewide holdings. The group is working to create a Union catalog of academic holdings and other digital collections. The State Library Director serves as a liaison to the executive board of PASCAL.



The **SC Association of Public Library Administrators (SCAPLA)** works closely with the State Library on a variety of issues. Perhaps one of the most important collaborative projects is SC Legislative Day. SCAPLA is the organizing body for this event that brings library directors and trustees together with their State Legislators for the opportunity to express views on the needs of libraries throughout the state. To assist SCAPLA in its preparation for Legislative Day, the State Library staff act as sources of information on current legislation, moral support, and local coordinators when necessary.

(cont'd on page 3)

FROM THE DIRECTOR.....

James B. Johnson, Jr.



Webster defines partnership as "a relationship resembling a legal partnership and usually involving close cooperation between parties having specified and joint rights and responsibilities (as in a common enterprise)."

It is the nature of libraries to partner with other organizations. The cover story of this issue discusses some of the partnerships involving the State Library. Many of these partnerships occur at the local level as well. In fact, the opportunity to partner with other organizations is greater at the local level since there are more possibilities.

I think the key phrase in the definition is "having specified and joint rights and responsibilities..." Libraries over the years have been asked to develop joint programs with other agencies only to see that the library did all the work and the other agencies received the credit. It is understandable for librarians to be gun shy when someone mentions yet another cooperative venture. For a partnership to work, there must be a quid pro quo.

In these times of lean budgets, I believe we need to foster as many partnerships as possible to meet the needs of our citizens (the taxpayers). They expect, and deserve, no less than for their public bodies to spend funds wisely. Since budgets are not, in most cases, increasing, it is incumbent on all of us to identify ways to stretch the dollars we have. Partnering with other agencies will be seen as a positive development.

For more information on the partnerships highlighted in this issue, see the following:

DISCUS—<http://www.scdiscus.org>
PASCAL—<http://web.presby.edu/pascal>
SCAPLA—<http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/apla>
SCLA—<http://www.scla.org>
FOSCL—<http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/foscl/>
USC-School of Library & Info Science—<http://www.libsci.sc.edu>
Palmetto Book Alliance—<http://www.scpalmettobookalliance.org>
BEST Center—<http://www.libsci.sc.edu/BEST>
National Library Service—<http://www.loc.gov/nls/>
Talking Book Services— <http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/scslweb/tbswelcome.html>
SC Humanities Council—<http://www.schumanities.org/>
SC Arts Commission—<http://www.state.sc.us/arts/>
Partnership for Distance Ed—<http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/lib/satellite.html>
First Steps—<http://www.scfirststeps.org/>



The **South Carolina Library Association (SCLA)**, established in 1915, has been a strong supporter of the development of library services from its earliest beginning, fighting for the establishment of a State Library Board, standing to fight against censorship in the 1950's and 1960's, and promoting professional growth. Today, the organization still supports strong library development and brings both professional librarians and support staff together to share information and establish relationships. State Library staff members are strongly encouraged to be active members of the organization, and many participate on committees and teams.

FOSCL, Friends of South Carolina Libraries, states its purpose this way: To "motivate and support local Friends groups, preserve and strengthen libraries, and create awareness and appreciation of library services." Again, the State Library provides support with staff who advise and inform on a variety of issues.

One of the greatest challenges to libraries in SC is recruitment. The State Library is currently working with representatives from the **USC-College of Mass Communications and Information Studies, School of Library and Information Science (USC-SLIS)** on strategies for attracting graduates of the program to take positions in South Carolina, particularly in rural public libraries. The relationship does not end there. The **Palmetto Book Alliance (PBA)** is also a collaborative project between the State Library and USC-SLIS. It celebrates SC's literary heritage as the local affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Each year, the PBA recognizes organizations that promote reading with the Palmetto Book Award, given during a reception at the SC Book Festival. The Book Festival, another event co-sponsored by the PBA, brings nationally recognized authors to the state.

The **BEST Center**, another USC-SLIS entity, is housed on the Mezzanine level of the State Library in Columbia. It holds a collection of recently published and award-winning children's materials and is recognized by the SC Commission on Higher Education as the official review center of children's materials, book reviews, bibliographies, and professional journals for parents, teachers, students, and librarians.

Many partnerships cross geographic as well as library boundaries and involve work with both federal and state government agencies. In 1931, the **National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)** was established through the Library of Congress to provide access to Braille and large print materials and specially designed playback equipment for recorded books to US residents who have visual or physical impairments. The State Library's **Talking Book Services** department acts as the local access point for this program.

The **SC Humanities Council, SC Arts Commission**, and the State Library jointly fund a position at the Council for the purpose of developing public literary arts programs throughout the state.

The **Partnership for Distance Education** is a consortium of public and independent higher education institutions, preK-12 school districts, public libraries, governmental agencies, businesses, industries, and health care organizations, all of which are involved in developing and utilizing distance education courses. It has funded and installed SCETV satellite receivers at nine public library outlets throughout the state.

First Steps is a statewide education initiative intended to help prepare children to enter first grade with good health and the skills necessary to succeed. The State Library Director serves on the First Steps Board of Trustees, and representatives from the public libraries sit on local boards. Just recently, two SC public libraries received First Steps awards for their outstanding programs for children. (See p.6 for details.)

A short article like this can hardly do more than introduce these important relationships, but it is certain that they deserve to be recognized. By coming together, the library community and other agencies have been able to launch programs in South Carolina that celebrate its heritage, educate its citizens, and prepare them for the future.

For more information on the programs and organizations named in this article, see the list on page 2.



DISCUS Partnerships Key to Success

DISCUS – South Carolina's Virtual Library relies on a wide range of partnerships for its success. These partnerships are vital to every aspect of bringing DISCUS resources “to the fingertips” of every South Carolinian.

Most recently DISCUS has partnered with the Computer Buddies program of NexusKids, itself a partnership between the Children's Law Office of the USC School of Law, the SC Department of Social Services and others. Computer Buddies are community volunteers who mentor individual foster children in developing and using computer skills to support their academic achievement. With DISCUS information provided directly to Computer Buddies through the partnership, these at-risk children will benefit from awareness and use of DISCUS resources in support of their schoolwork, computer literacy and safe Internet exploration. See <http://www.nexuskids.org/compbuddies.htm> for more information.

Longstanding DISCUS partners are essential to maintaining access to and promoting awareness of DISCUS in their communities. They train teachers, students and others on making effective use of these resources. They troubleshoot technical issues. They serve on DISCUS committees. These partners include:

- Librarians, media specialists, library staff, network and technology staff at over 1500 schools, colleges and public libraries;
- Curriculum specialists, lead teachers and technology trainers at over 1100 schools;
- SC State Department of Education's Office of Technology, 13 Regional Technology Centers and other Department of Education divisions and staff.

Fundamental to DISCUS is the public-private technology partnership coordinated through the Office of the State Chief Information Officer (CIO) – the K-12 School Technology Coordinating Committee. This partnership enables Internet connectivity for the state's public academic institutions and public libraries, their means of access to DISCUS. The Committee allocates state-appropriated technology funds for DISCUS, its primary source of funding. In addition to the CIO's Office, this partnership includes: SC Department of Education, SC Educational Television, the State Library, BellSouth and the Lightstar Partners.

Additional partners lend support to DISCUS in a variety of ways. These partners include: SC Partnership for Distance Education, the state's professional librarian associations, the DISCUS database vendors and many others.



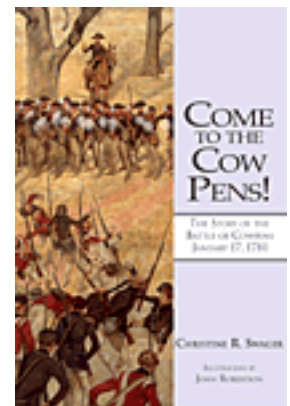
Two New Histories Available from Award Winning South Carolina Press

Hub City Writers Project has two new South Carolina history titles available in its catalog.



More than 40 writers and historians contribute to *Textile Town*, a new title that explores two centuries of life in the cotton mills of Spartanburg, SC. Photographs, letters, newspaper columns, diaries, and oral histories help make this a true living history, providing an in-depth look at such subjects as organized labor, segregation and integration of the mills, child labor, and occupational health. The book also explores the life of mill workers, their music, food, and sports. This work includes a glossary of textile terms, information on 50 different textile businesses, and profiles of textile leaders. Betsy Wakefield Teter, one of the founders of Hub City Writers Project, is the editor of *Textile Town*.

The Battle of Cowpens comes to life with narrative, verse, maps, and portraits in *Come to the Cow Pens!*, by Dr. Christine Swager. Young adult readers (grades 3-8) can follow the events of this 1791 Revolutionary War battle and Brigadier General Daniel Morgan's defeat of the British. Dr. Swager is retired from University of South Carolina's Education Department and has two other Revolutionary War era young adult titles to her credit: *Black Crows and Cockades* and *If Ever Your Country Needs You*. This new title includes an introduction from respected South Carolina historian, Dr. Walter Edgar.

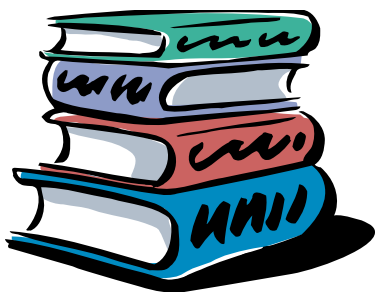


Hub City Writers Project is considered by many to be the premier literary organization in South Carolina. In 2002, it received the Governor's Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award, the highest honor given by the state for the arts. It is the first time a literary arts organization has received this prestigious award. Its title *New Southern Harmonies: Four Emerging Fiction Writers* was recognized in 1999 as the best book of short fiction in North America by Independent Publisher magazine.

The seven year old press was born in Spartanburg with the goal of providing local authors an outlet for their work and fostering a deeper sense of community among readers. What followed was *Hub City Anthology*, a title featuring writers, artists, and photographers and their stories and images of life in Spartanburg. Since then, the Hub City Writers Project catalog has grown to 18 titles, with contributions from such recognized authors as Josephine Humphries and Dori Sanders.

Textile Town [ISBN 1891-885-28-6, \$19.95 pbk] and *Come to the Cow Pens!* [ISBN 1-891-885-31-6, \$12.95 pbk] are available from Ingram, Baker & Taylor, or directly from the publisher. For more information, contact the Hub City Writers Project at P.O. Box 8421, Spartanburg, SC 29305, phone 864-577-9349, fax 815-371-0350, or visit the web site at <http://www.hubcity.org>.





Children and Youth Services.....

Harvin Clarendon County Library Wins YALSA Great Book Giveaway for 2003

The Harvin Clarendon County Library is the winner of the seventh annual Great Book Giveaway from the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association. YALSA sponsors the contest to pass along materials donated by various publishers and producers to the division's awards and selection committees for review. The library will receive over 30 boxes of the 2002 books, videos, CD's, and audiocassettes for children, young adults, and adults. The estimated value of the collection is approximately \$25,000.

Clarendon's Adult and Teen Services Librarian, Melanie Barker, said, "That's fantastic! WOW! I am speechless! This is going to be a great gift; the teens are going to love it. I can't wait to see their faces!" Barker began developing services for teens after joining the library staff in May 2002. Young Adult circulation increased 58%, and over eighty teens participated in Teen Read Week activities last fall. This gift of books will give teen services increased visibility in the community.

The library plans to unveil the new materials to the more than twenty teens on their Teen Advisory Board in late February. The group will be able to choose the books they want the library to process first so that they can begin to check them out.

For more information on the YALSA awards, visit the web site:

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/awards/gbgviiipr.html>

Libraries and Librarians Making a Mark on First Steps

At the recent First Steps Awards Luncheon, Georgetown County Library was awarded an Early Childhood Education Advocate Award for, what First Steps describes as, "its strong support of early literacy programs and for encouraging parents to read aloud to children." The Library has a long tradition of providing staff and financial support for an active outreach program to childcare facilities in the county. With First Steps as partners, the Library was able to hire a storyteller to visit childcare centers regularly. 40 childcare facilities are visited monthly and the Library has distributed over 3200 books to providers and families since January 2002.

Carl Stone, Director of the Anderson County Library received the Outstanding Service to First Steps award (county-level) for his work as Chairman of the Anderson County First Steps Board.

With Newberry County Library having won a major First Steps Award last year for its outreach program, public libraries have demonstrated to First Steps partnerships around the state that they can be important and effective participants in efforts to help all children to be ready for school.

State Librarian Jim Johnson said, "These awards are indicative of the work our public libraries do to improve early childhood education in the state."

For more information, please contact Jane Connor, Youth Services Consultant, (803) 734-8658 or email: janec@leo.scsl.state.sc.us



NEWSWORTHY

Charleston County

A new branch library in John's Island is scheduled to be complete in Spring 2004. The \$4.3 million building will be nearly 16,000 sq. feet, with room for 35,000 volumes. The building, designed by McKellar & Associates, will sit on land donated by the Charleston County School Board that was once part of the Haut Gap Middle School.

Beaufort County

Old Lobeco School Auditorium is being renovated to house the Dale Branch Library. Friends of Beaufort County have donated \$48,000 through fundraising projects for furniture and shelving.

Darlington County

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Lamar Library branch of the Darlington County Library System was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2002. Speakers included Anne Warr, County Council Chairperson, Gordon Brown, President of the Friends of the Lamar Library, Sue Rainey, Director of the Darlington County Library, architect Danny Shelley, and Rev. Melvin Flail.

South Carolina State University

Since joining the Miller Forest Whitaker Library in 1999, archivist Aimee Berry is credited with creating "a viable archival program in an institution where little or none existed before," states the SC Archival Association web site. For this, the Association has named Ms. Berry the recipient of the 2002 South Carolina Archival Association Program Innovation Award. Ms. Berry is responsible for processing and describing notable collections such as the papers of

Congressman James E. Clyburn and the Orangeburg Massacre Collection. The library now houses over 50 catalogued collections devoted to the history of SC State University and the local community. Ms. Berry is a graduate of USC's joint Applied History and Library Science programs. She acts as Secretary of the SC Archival Association and is the Chair of the Archives and Special Collections Roundtable of the South Carolina Library Association.

Coming Events

LIBRIS (Library Resources and Information Sharing - A Forum for library personnel to share ideas and learn from each other) 2003 THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE, "The Connection To Learning" will be held May 9th, 2003, at the D. Kent Sharples Student and Community Life Complex of Horry Georgetown Technical College, Conway Campus. The Conference Fee of \$25 includes attendance at all sessions and lunch. Please visit <http://library.stcsc.edu/libris/libris.htm> for conference agenda and registration.

Patchwork Tales Storytelling Festival will take place March 27-29, 2003, featuring nationally recognized storytellers, including The Storyweavers, Ed Stivender, Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre, Jeff Robbins, Dianne Hackworth, Charles Pettee, and Rixon Lane. For event locations and detailed schedule, see the web site at <http://www.yclibrary.org/patchworktales.htm> or phone the Festival Coordinator, Diane Williams, at 803-324-7624 or email dianejjj@hotmail.com.



Local Library Trustees Attend Training Institute

January 17-28, 2003, marked the 5th Annual South Carolina Public Library Trustee Institute, a two-day event held at Columbia's Adam's Mark hotel and sponsored by the South Carolina State Library and APLA (Association of Public Library Administrators).

More than 120 trustees from around South Carolina attended the various sessions during the Institute which covered a wide range of library issues including recruiting, working with the library community, and the basics of good Boardmanship. The Institute's lead speaker, Dennis Lambries, from the South Carolina Institute for Public Service and Policy Research, discussed leadership in a chaotic environment. Additional presenters were Coretta Bedsole of Columbia's Progressive Lobbying Solutions, Anne Marie Elkins, North Carolina State Library Consultant, Dan Mackey of Camden, and Carrie Allen McCray, Columbia author and poet.

This premier educational opportunity for library boards in South Carolina focused on the theme of Effective Leadership for the 21st Century and the breakneck pace of change in South Carolina's public libraries, and how library trustees can keep up, and even get ahead.

For more information on the 2003 Trustee Institute, please contact Dr. Curtis Rogers, Director of Library Development Services, 803-734-8928, curtis@leo.scsli.state.sc.us



*Dennis Lambries
leads the discussion
on leadership*



*Author Carrie Allen
McCray signs
autographs at
Saturday's
luncheon*



*NC State Library's
Anne Marie Elkins
talks about basic
boardmanship*

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State Library: www.state.sc.us/scsl

Talking Book Services: www.state.sc.us/scsl/bph

DISCUS: www.scdiscus.org

Palmetto Book Alliance: www.scpalmettobookalliance.org

SC Reference Room: www.state.sc.us/scsl/refdesk

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